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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PINWHEELS: A WAY TO LOOK AT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Pinwheel Garden to Recognize Efforts to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

Spindale, NC - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Rutherford County Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Rutherford County Clerk of Court's Office, will join thousands of communities throughout North Carolina and the nation in bringing attention to child abuse prevention with a pinwheel garden at the Rutherford County Courthouse. The garden was originally planned for the month of April to coincide with Child Abuse Prevention Month. However, due to a dock workers strike at the port of Los Angeles, the materials for the pinwheel garden are being held in customs and not expected to be released until mid May. Along with many other communities across the nation, the pinwheel garden will be planted later in the year, hopefully by the end of May. "We want to make the best of this situation. Even though there is a delay in planting the garden, this deferral can help the general public understand the role we all play in prevention every day of the year, and the great prevention work going on year round...not just in April," states Social Services Director, John Carroll.

The blue and silver pinwheel is the symbol of child abuse prevention, representing community efforts to provide children with the safe, stable, nurturing relationships needed for healthy development. Plans are being made for pre-school children from local child care centers to assist in planting the garden to represent the successful future to which they look forward.

The month of April is a good opportunity for all Rutherford County citizens to learn more about the short and long term effects of child abuse and neglect on the child and on the community. Many community agencies, along with local and national media, will be providing educational information. The planting of the pinwheel garden later in the year will be another opportunity to give attention to the issue of child abuse.

All Rutherford County Citizens are encouraged to watch for further information about this upcoming event and make plans to attend. Anyone that has questions or wishing additional information regarding this event may contact the Department of Social Services at 287-6165.

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